KINGSTON WHIG-STANDARD 17 FEB. 1970

CBS News spokesman denies financing invasion of Haiti

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — A congressional subcommittee investigating complaints of slanted news has been investigating for nearly a year allegations that the Columbia Broadcasting System helped finance Haitian rebels in exchange for film rights, a committee official said Monday.

No conclusions have been reached as a result of the inquiry, which was described as extremely preliminary.

Robert Lishman, counsel to the House of Representatives interstate and foreign commerce spe[illegible] on inves-tigat[illegible], said the allegation against CBS was only one item in the inquiry.

He said the committee had received complaints—he did not say from whom—to the effect that CBS had paid Haitians opposed to the government of President Francois Duvalier in exchange for exclusive rights to film their activities.

Lishman said the complaints could have arisen from an incident in January, 1967. A CBS cameraman was then among Haitian exiles seized by American authorities during what was described as an abortive attempt to invade Haiti and overthrow the Duvalier dictatorship.

Their boat, which set sail from [illegible], was seized in U.S. territorial waters.

A CBS spokesman said Monday:

"Any suggestion that CBS News 'financed' an attempt to invade Haiti in 1966 or deliberately encouraged such an invasion, is false.

"Such allegations apparently relate to a CBS News investigative reporting pro[illegible] in 1966."

The spokesman said the project concerned the activities of Caribbean exiles living in Florida.

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Deceptive U.S. news-

LONDON ... President Kennedy's ... [illegible]

... Telegraph does not say ... were taken from ... [illegible]

... [illegible] ... congressional investiga- ... [illegible]

gathering is charged

... [illegible] ... return ex- ... [illegible] ... mirror ... [illegible] ... which the magazine ... [illegible] ... eavesdropped ... [illegible]

... the daily news- paper Il Messaggero also car- ried allegations similar to those in The Daily Telegraph. Il Mes- saggero says its New York of- fice has a copy of the congres- sional report, but does not quote from it.)

... [illegible] ... sources ... magazine ... [illegible] ... trained ... [illegible]